

REMARKS

Entry of the foregoing, re-examination and reconsideration of the subject matter identified in caption, as amended, pursuant to and consistent with 37 C.F.R. §1.112, and in light of the remarks which follow, are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-22 remain pending in this application. Claim 1 has been amended to correct a typographical error. Claims 21 and 22 stand withdrawn from consideration as not readable on the elected invention.

Claims 1-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over GB 2 249 994 (Forin) in view of EP 0 875 618 (Salvi) and U.S. Patent No. 6,267,151 to Moll and U.S. Patent No. 4,330,785 to Yabuta et al. for the reasons given in paragraph (17) of the Office Action. Reconsideration of this rejection is requested for at least the following reasons.

The present claims are directed to a process for manufacturing a designed glass fiber fabric wall covering which includes the steps of applying at least three layers to the glass fabric: initially applying a chemical dispersion which typically adds volume and opacity to the fabric; applying a hydrophobic coating to a portion of the glass fabric to form a first image layer; and thereafter applying a second image coating to selected areas of the fabric, the second image coating containing a polymeric binder and expandable chemicals which upon heating, form a volumetric imaged pattern. The resultant product is a wallcovering which exhibits a volumetric imaged pattern which can be painted to create three-dimensional designs and patterns. The combined disclosures of the relied-upon documents do not disclose or suggest the claimed method.

GB '994 is discussed on page 1 of the instant specification. This reference describes a method wherein a decorative pattern is created on a textile by applying "a supple film of a receiving thermoplastic material" onto the textile, fixing the film by heating, and heat-transferring a pigmented image onto the film. This is in contrast to the presently claimed process wherein a glass fabric is impregnated with a chemical dispersion, coated with a hydrophobic coating, and coated with a second coating comprising polymeric binder and expandable chemicals. There is no suggestion in GB '994 of the desirability of applying a second imaged layer upon the pigment decorative pattern.

EP '618 discloses a process wherein a non-woven glass fiber substrate is coated with acrylic resin, coated with acrylic adhesive, a design printed thereon and inorganic particles embedded in the adhesive. There is no mention of applying a second design coating comprising polymeric binder and expandable chemicals.

Doll '151 discloses a method of preparing a patterned woven glass fiber textile by using mixed yarns containing dyeable synthetic resin filaments. This document has been cited for its disclosure of coating the finished patterned fabric with a mixture of starch and synthetic resin (column 2, lines 24-25). In Applicants' claims 4-7, the chemical dispersion includes starch and polymeric binder. This chemical dispersion is the initial impregnation applied to the fabric in stark contrast to Doll '151 where the starch/resin mixture is applied to the finished patterned fabric.

Yabuta et al. '785 discloses the preparation of a thermosensitive stereo recording material composed of thermally expandable microspheres and an ink coating layer. This document does not relate to wallcoverings and contains no disclosure of glass fiber textiles. Yabuta et al. '785 is totally unrelated to the other references relied upon in the reference. It is not clear from the rejection why those of ordinary skill in the art of glass fiber wallcoverings would be motivated to look to the art of thermal recording media for a suggestion to apply a volumetric design effect upon decorative wallcoverings.

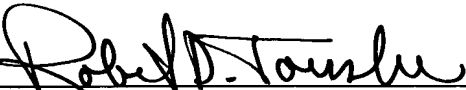
For at least the above reasons, the §103(a) rejection should be reconsidered and withdrawn. Such action is earnestly requested.

Claims 14-20 were not rejected on any ground in the Office Action. Presumably, these claims stand allowed. Applicants respectfully request that the status of claims 14-20 be clarified on the record.

From the foregoing, further and favorable action in the form of a Notice of Allowance is believed to be next in order and such action is earnestly solicited. If there are any questions concerning this paper or the application in general, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: May 3, 2004

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